



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** December 4, 2007

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Approve Renewal Of Water Meter Standardization And Sole-Source Supplier

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Find it in the City's best interest to standardize to Metron water meters for one-inch and larger water meters; and
- B. Find it in the City's best interest to waive formal bid procedures as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.080(k) and authorize the General Services Manager to negotiate with, and issue a purchase order within approved budgets to, Metron-Farnier, LLC, as the sole-source supplier for one-inch and larger Metron water meters for one year, with four one-year renewal options.

### DISCUSSION:

Water meters are used to measure the amount of water delivered to City water customers for billing purposes. Water Resources has been replacing its one-inch and larger water meters with Metron meters, because the Metron meter is able to record very low flows which typically account for 10% of flows through larger meters. More precise metering translates to improved accuracy with regard to water billing, which increases the incentive for customers to conserve water. Standardizing the larger meters to Metron will reduce the required stock of replacement and repair parts, and will reduce the time needed for training staff in installing, maintaining, and reading meters.

Chapter 4.52, "Purchasing", of the Municipal Code, Section 4.52.080 (k), authorizes Council to purchase supplies, equipment, and services without complying with the formal bid procedure when, in the opinion of Council, it is in the best interest of the City. City Council approved Metron water meters as the City standard and Metron-Farnier as the sole-source supplier in June 2000.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

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Water Resources staff has found Metron meters to be reliable and to perform well. Additionally, Metron-Farnier is the only domestic supplier for these meters. At this time, staff is requesting that Council renew the approval of Metron water meters as the City standard, and Metron-Farnier as the sole-source supplier. Staff also recommends authorizing the General Services Manager to negotiate with, and issue a purchase order within approved budgets to, Metron-Farnier for one-inch and larger Metron water meters for one year, with four one-year renewal options.

#### SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Metron meters provide better precision with metering water, which translates to improved accuracy with regard to water billing. Accurate water bills will increase the incentive for customers to conserve water.

**PREPARED BY:** Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office